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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Schofield**Application No.: 09/740,706****Filed: December 19, 2000****Title: System and Apparatus for Dropping and Adding
Optical Data Streams in An Optical Communication
Network****Attorney Docket No.: 2204/A78 120-207****Nortel Ref: 13250BAUS01U****Group Art Unit: 2633****Examiner: Ngo**

**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450****RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111****Dear Sir:**

In response to the Office Action of June 9, 2004, please amend this application as shown in the attached sheets.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-28 are presented for examination, of which claims 1, 8, 16, 17, 22 and 28 are independent claims. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 16, 17, 22 and 28 are currently amended. Claims 2 and 9 are cancelled. New claims 4 and 11 are added. It should be noted that claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are restored to original form. Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-28 were rejected. Reconsideration is requested.

The presently claimed invention distinguishes Kiang and Hill because optical signals are combined with signals coming from the switch device. The cited references describe a